

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:**

The shank 27 has a cylindrical peripheral surface 26 and, at its end 3, an annular face 25, which together form the punch edge 6. In the center of the face 25, there is a face 32 configured on the foot 24 of the mandrel. The two faces 25, 32 pass smoothly into each other and together form a flat-conical surface, whose outward projecting point lies on the centerline of the mandrel 7. In this way, the face 32 forms, in particular with its tip, a projection protruding from the plane in which the punch edge 6 lies on the side of the fastening element 1 away from the sethead, and in the punching operation, strikes the work before the punch edge 6 reaches the work. The inclination of the conical surface formed by the faces 25, 32 is so dimensioned that the face 25 makes an included angle X of 93.degree. to 96.degree. with the peripheral surface 26.